

Upset Schools Turn Teachers Into Martyrs

Women and Men Bravely Keep Doing Good Work in Spite of Split Sessions and Packed Classrooms

They Keep From Fretting Instructors Regard It as a Duty to "Carry On" Regardless of Discomforts

School teachers of New York have accepted difficult conditions in overcrowded buildings as a challenge of their abilities. Nothing so impresses the visitor to these damp dingy buildings as the courage and optimism of principals and teachers. Noise and confusion is even harder on their adult nerves than on those of their pupils, but it is seldom they complain, in the presence of the children at least.

A visitor found the principal of one girls' high school in a small room, with her desk behind a screen, with telephones, typewriters and a babel of voices outside making it almost impossible to maintain conversation in comfort. Yet she was affable and enthusiastic, a Pollyanna who was convincing.

"We just go on and do the best we can," he said. "We know the conditions are not ideal, but fretting about them isn't going to change them. We do wish it were not quite so hard on the girls—the early hours and noisy rooms—and we don't like to have them going up and down stairs so much, but we try to teach them to climb stairs in a way that is not injurious to their spines. We are hoping that our turn will come soon for a new building. The girls here deserve it for the cheerful way they put up with this."

The New Utrecht High School for boys is an old frame building, with outside stairways leading to the various wings which have been added during the last fifty years as the school grew. Old stores across the street have been fitted up as an annex. What does the principal say of it?

"This place is a challenge," he says. "We have to make up to the boys for a lot of things. It is our job to build for character and citizenship and the city's job is to give plants to do it in. We aren't falling down on our part of the contract. The great event of our year is when the boys come back in the fall to get their credits for college entrance—then we know we have not failed, no matter what kind of building we have or how crowded we have been."

Up in crowded P. S. 54, where 3,700 children have to be accommodated, the principals and teachers have accepted the double duty of teaching and of making endurable the physical conditions which surround the children. The older and more reliable boys are appointed marshals to watch the lines of little children crossing the streets, some on their way home, others just starting their days' lessons.

"We don't like it," said the principal, standing tired, but one might almost say triumphant, at the end of his day, "but we must go on and do the best we can for the children are worthy of the best we have. Looking into their bright, eager faces is our inspiration. We will just go on working hard as we can for these children until the city can give them better conditions, rooms that really belong to them, a place where they can have a feeling of homeness. Put a flower or a plant into the schoolroom and within a week you hear stories of flowers in the homes. Only teachers know what a close connection there is between home and school, and how much some of these homes need the inspiration of a sunny, beautiful, orderly schoolroom. What a pity we cannot give it to them."

League Expects to Decide Silesian Question Thursday
GENEVA, Oct. 8 (By The Associated Press).—The negotiations and deliberations of the Council of the League of Nations on the Upper Silesian question virtually have been completed, and it is expected its decision will be arrived at on Thursday.

The propositions of the Council will be submitted unofficially to the French, British and Italian governments, in order to elicit the opinions of those governments regarding the question before the Council presents the official text of its findings.

Register or you cannot vote! Register to-morrow if possible. Polls open from 5 p. m. to 10:30 p. m. You can register during the same hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Saturday the last day of registration—you can register from 7 a. m. to 10:30 p. m. Don't wait till Saturday! Register early!

"A Seat for Every Child"

How Mayor Hylan Has Failed in His Campaign Promise for the Public Schools of the City

High School of Commerce

In the High School of Commerce at 155 West 65th Street, 4,196 students are registered. This is one of the least congested schools in the city, but two annexes are required to care for practically one-half of the boys. The main building has a seating capacity of approximately 1,900, and there are 1,892 boys attending.

The two annexes are in elementary school buildings, one in P. S. 67 at 120 West Forty-sixth Street and the other in P. S. 166 at 112 West Eighty-ninth Street. In the former there are 1,046 pupils and in the latter there are 1,257. While pupils in the main building are on full time, those in the annexes are on double session basis, one set coming in the morning for instruction and another set in the afternoon.

Although the High School of Commerce has suffered less than any other high school from the failure of the Hylan administration to build a single high school during its term of office, nevertheless the boys seize the first opportunity to quit school.

On the day that the main building was visited by a Tribune representative it had been announced that there were

some places vacant in a department store. At the close of the school period there was a mad rush of fifty or sixty boys into the administrative office of the school. One of the administrative officers had to make a series of vigorous rushes against the massed boys in order to restore some semblance of discipline and orderliness.

One of the worst effects of the congestion that has arisen out of the failure of the Hylan administration to erect high schools in Street and Erasmus Hall High School, in Brooklyn, where all the club life of the lower grades has had to go out of existence. The Junior Debating Society for Boys and the Junior Dramatic Society have disbanded, because pupils are on double sessions and there is neither time nor space for their activities.

Even the athletic teams of the school are being affected by the congestion. The club life of the upper grades also is disturbed, but the different societies are managing to struggle along. It has been necessary for most of the organizations to get new faculty advisers. Those affected in this manner are the Garfield Dramatic Society, the Witan and the Senate.

like before election and now that another is approaching, saying the same old thing. Are the mothers who have children in the public schools satisfied that these are the conditions that there has been a constructive plan formulated by John F. Hylan to adequately give the children of New York a real education?

"Part time has increased tremendously. Children are subjected to fire hazards that have only been avoided by the greatest good luck. The classrooms are overcrowded. John F. Hylan has been playing politics with the schools. The children are not getting the kind of education that the rich City of New York should give its children."

"Has John F. Hylan the capabilities to meet this situation? Would he have been elected Mayor if the people knew four years ago how he would handle the school question? The foregoing are only two of the great problems affecting New York from which to judge of John F. Hylan's abilities. There are many others affecting almost every municipal department, but only one other need be mentioned now—that is the budget and finances of the city."

"Are John F. Hylan's answers to questions about the budget and finances of the city on which he publicly confessed his ignorance, that he does not know anything about them, satisfactory to the people? From his answers there is nothing to reassure the voter that John F. Hylan has the capability, which a Mayor of New York should have, of handling the complicated and difficult financial situation confronting the City of New York?"

Benson To Be Given Sword
WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—In recognition of his services during the war, Admiral William S. Benson, now serving as a commissioner on the United States Shipping Board, is to be given a jeweled sword by the United Daughters of the Confederacy at Waycross, Ga., October 20.

Admiral Benson, who is a native of Georgia, will go to Waycross for the presentation, which will be made during the session of the convention of the Daughters there.

Lamont Holds First Business Conference With De la Huerta
MEXICO CITY, Oct. 8.—Thomas W. Lamont of New York, and Secretary of the Treasury de la Huerta arranged to hold their first business conference this afternoon since Mr. Lamont's arrival here a few days ago.

The American financier's previous visits to the Mexican office are understood to have been more or less preparatory for the "fact getting," for which Mr. Lamont says he is here.

His visit to President Obregon yesterday was purely one of courtesy. Mr. Lamont still declines to comment upon the purpose of his visit and probably will say nothing for publication until negotiations being conducted shall have been settled, which will be within a fortnight.

O'Brien Denounces P. S. C. Proposal for Gas Consolidation

Says Board Should Leave "Constructive Programs" to Others and Devote Attention to Lowering Rates

Corporation Counsel John P. O'Brien, while admitting that he had made only a cursory perusal of the proposal of Chairman William A. Prendergast that the gas companies operating in New York City be consolidated, late yesterday afternoon criticized the Public Service Commission for its "constructive programs," suggesting that such work be left to "those who spend the summer at Chautauqua or some other educational resort," and "devote their attention to the business before them."

"The query comes to my mind," Mr. O'Brien said, "why does not the Public Service Commission, with its ample powers, effect all of these results now, to-day, and not next year or in some year to come? Why are the gas companies allowed to charge extortionate prices for gas in the face of evidence in the record before the Public Service Commission, and in the face of the generally conceded falling prices of labor and material?"

Calling attention to the finding of Federal Judge Hand, in the case of the Consolidated Gas Company, that the company made a net revenue of 11 cents out of 20 cents in 1919, and 18 cents out of 80 cents in 1918, Mr. O'Brien asked why, in view of "tumbling prices," Chairman Prendergast "and his colleagues on the Public Service Commission" do not "issue an order forbidding the New York and Queens Company from imposing illegally a service charge."

He then charged that the Public Service Commission had deserted the city, and the Attorney General in the various litigations now pending which are designed to sweep aside the statutory rates for gas, declaring that this abandonment had "brought comfort to the enemy" and "had weakened the position of the public officials representing the public in these litigations."

"I would respectfully suggest to the Public Service Commission that they devote their attention to the business before them, see that the consumers of gas get a square deal consistent with justice to all interests concerned, and leave the so-called 'constructive programs' to those who spend the summer at Chautauqua or some other educational resort," Mr. O'Brien said.

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